GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2197
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2005
CHEMCIAL INDUSTRIES
Gandhi Shri Pradeep

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure adherence to adequate safeguards as laid down by the Ministry of Environment and Forests regarding manufacturing, storage and use of hazardous chemicals by the industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether after the liberalization and delicensing of chemical industry, production of hazardous chemicals has increased;

(d) if so, the number of checks carried out during the last three years, State- wise;

(e) whether there is any mechanism to keep watch on such industries;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against the chemical industries/ manufacturers and units found violating environment safety norms ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VSLAS PASWAN)

(a) to (g): Chemical Industry has been deiicensed except for a few hazardous chemicais. Government permits manufacture of hazardous chemicals after satisfying itself about various aspects like safety, environmental angle, etc. Further, it is mandatory for ai! chemical units to observe and adhere to the environmental standards as prescribed under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. This is enforced by the State Pollution Control Boards under the contra! of the State Governments.

Schedule 5 of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals (MSIHC) Rules 1989 as amended in 1994 & 2000 identifies the concerned authorities responsible for enforcement of MSIHC Rules. Directorate of Industrial Safety / Chief Inspectorate of Factories in the states appointed under the Factories Act, 1948 are the authorities responsible for enforcement of the MSIHC Rules in respect of Industrial Installations and Isolated storages covered under the Factories Act, 1948.

In addition, following complementary activities have been initiated by the Ministry of Environment & Forests to enable adherence to adequate safeguards;

Hazards Analysis of selected industrial districts / pockets including Safety Audits of Maximum Accidents Hazard (MAH) units.
Preparation of Off-site Emergency Plan of selected districts
Establishment of Emergency Response Centers and Poison Information Centers
Training and Awareness
Capacity Building
Research and Development Projects.

The concerned authorities are required to submit a yearly report of the status of implementation of the Rules. The Government reviews the status of compliance of the Manufacture Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals (MSIHC) Rules 1989.